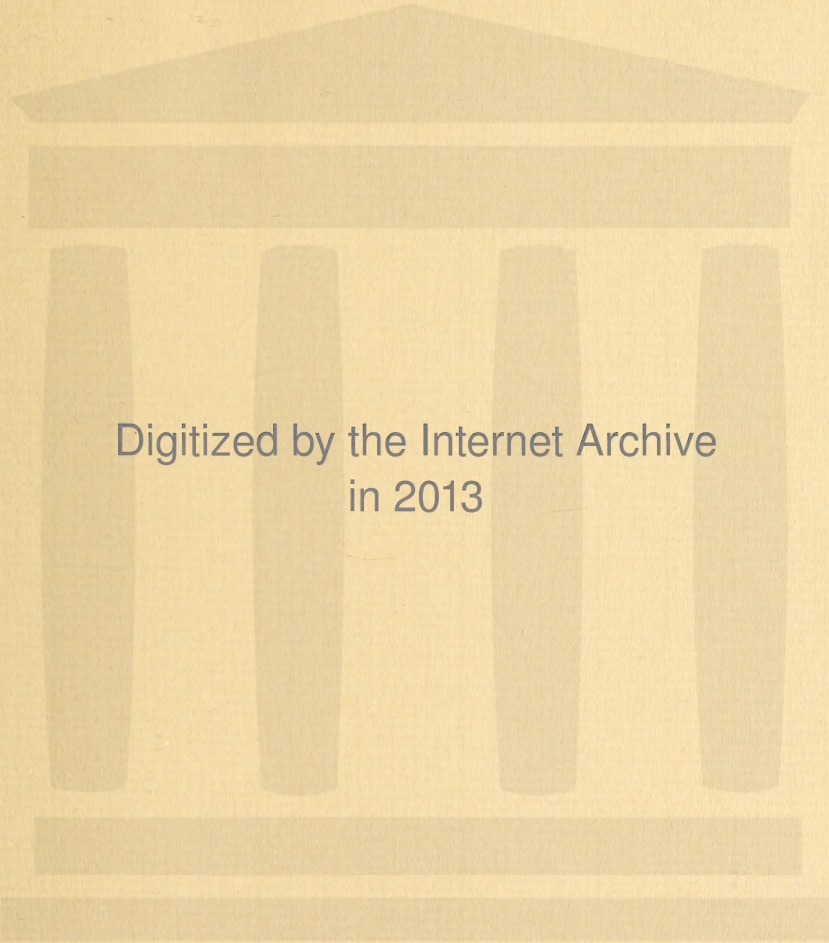


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CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

SPEECH

OF

HON. SIR EDWARD KEMP, P.C., K.C.M.G., M.P.

Minister of Overseas Military Forces

ON

CANADA'S OVERSEAS FORCES

In the House of Commons, on May 27th, 1919.

Sir EDWARD KEMP (Minister of the Overseas Military Forces): Mr. Speaker, I ask the indulgence of the House for a short time in order that I may have an opportunity to make a statement with reference to the administration of the overseas military forces of Canada. I was obliged to go across the water before the elections took place in 1917; and in making a few observations on the subject to which I have referred I ask the indulgence of the House the more readily because of the fact that I was unable to take my place in the House last session, and also because I have not taken up very much of the time of the House this session.

When in 1914 we decided to participate in the war to the last man and the last dollar, I fancy that none of us, none of the people of this country, fully realized what the obligation we then assumed really meant. We did not hesitate; we did not stop to bargain; the one point which was uppermost in the minds of all was: What would happen to the world; what would happen to the Empire; what would happen to Canada, if Germany could force her will upon the world, as she intended to do? But Germany was unable to carry out her scheme to change the map of the world. It is the intention, I understand, of the Peace Conference so to change the boundaries of European countries as to make it impossible for all time to come for any European nation

to undertake, with any hope of success, such an enterprise as Germany entered upon.

I venture to say that few of Canada's soldiers, who enlisted so readily and with so much enthusiasm, particularly in the earlier days of the war, anticipated that they would be away from their homes so long or that they would be subjected to such privations, such hardships, and such sacrifices as overtook them. Neither did we expect that we would require to send such a large force overseas. If any one had predicted in the early days of the war that we should send 50,000 or 100,000 men overseas, the estimate would have been considered a large one. Yet we have sent overseas in all 420,913 of the best blood and sinew of Canada.

This, however, does not by any means represent the whole effort of this country. Many things were done by the people—the House is familiar with them—to help win the war. I shall not attempt this afternoon to enumerate them; in fact, I would be unable to do so, because these efforts were so varied and branched out into so many different directions and had such a far-reaching effect in bringing about a successful conclusion of the war, that it would be an impossibility to state them in detail.

It is desirable, Mr Speaker, that the people of Canada should familiarize themselves as much as possible with the activities of Canada's army while it was over-

seas. I realized some time ago that it would be an almost hopeless task for me, as a minister of the Crown representing the Canadian Government overseas, to convey to the people a picture which would accurately represent the activities of our army across the water. After the armistice came about on the 11th of November, we commenced to get out a report on the subject, and we succeeded in having that report completed. We could not do very much work on the report before the armistice, because the officers and men who were in a position to assist in the work were fully occupied. I had the honour of laying this report on the table of the House a couple of weeks ago. While it is a large volume, comprising over 500 pages, I think it is fair to say that the volume could have been much larger—indeed, that there might have been two or three volumes just as large—and yet contain, without padding, matters of very great interest in connection with the overseas forces. My task to-day is to touch upon, as briefly as I can, a few of the most important points in which I think the public may be interested; of course, I cannot do more than touch upon the fringe of the subject.

At the request of the Prime Minister, I went to England in November, 1917, to accept the position of Minister of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada. I accepted the position, with some misgivings, knowing to some extent what the responsibilities were. I realized the difficulty involved in being so far from the seat of Government and from the people of Canada, and of explaining to the people and to my colleagues the necessity for such action as was required from time to time in connection with the carrying on of the war. In fact, from first to last it has been difficult to convey to the people an explanation of the many necessary things that had to be done.

The war was conducted on a tremendous scale. It was difficult for the people of Great Britain to understand the many things that had to be done. The war was, you might say, one surprise after another to the people of Great Britain, and perhaps more so to the people of Canada, who were so far removed from the scene of hostilities. I do not know that any one has prophesied what the effect would be upon Canada of sending such a large part of our population on this mission overseas, of holding these men in restraint, of subjecting them to military discipline for such long periods.

No one, it seems to me, has carefully studied the effect which this phase of our participation in the war will ultimately have upon Canada—in fact, the effect which it is having upon Canada to-day—or the political effect, using the word “political” in its broadest sense—which it will have upon this country. It would be well for us to stop, to consider, to reflect upon the difficulties which we shall have to face in the future in relation to the great task which we undertook under the obligation which we entered into in connection with the war.

The soil of Belgium and of France will always be sacred to Canadians, particularly to those whose loved ones lie there. But out of 420,913 men whom we sent overseas, 364,599 are alive; and for that we should be duly thankful. We rendered great service in the war; our achievements were great. Surely we may hope that this magnificent country will reap some benefit from these sacrifices, aside from the benefit which comes from our having helped to win the war. Surely we may hope that the result will be to make Canada a better country to live in; to make our people a better people, if that be possible.

It is not my intention this afternoon to attempt to deal with the operations of the Canadian corps at the front, because in the time at my disposal it would be impossible for me on the floor of this House to do justice to the magnificent way in which our soldiers conducted themselves in active service. From time to time in the press a record has been given of the operations that were carried out, and in the report which I placed on the table of the House there is a lengthy record of the operations of the Canadian corps during the last one hundred days of the war, which period constituted its crowning effort. The report to which I refer is a preliminary one in the view of General Currie, who was chiefly responsible for it, and who had it written. I understand from General Currie that he has some one now engaged on writing a complete history of the operations of the Canadian corps in the war, including the last one hundred days, and that history will be available at a later date.

The tasks of the Canadian corps were most difficult; the Canadian Corps was always to be found where the fighting was most fierce; and by its valour, patience and skill it brought renown to Canada; its record will endure for all time in the history not only of Canada, but of the world. Its com-

mander, General Currie, has made a high place for himself in history; he measures up to a proud standard as compared with other great generals of the war; he was ever considerate of the men under him, and always exercised patience and foresight in dealing with problems which came before him.

Demobilization is the question which is particularly before the people of this country at the moment in connection with the overseas forces, and I intend to take this question up a little later on, but before doing so, I should like to mention certain matters connected with the administration of the Canadian overseas forces before the armistice.

The question as to what control is exercised over Canadian troops at the front, and in fact over all our overseas forces abroad, has always been one of interest to hon. members, and it has been frequently referred to on the floor of this House. The inquiry has often been made: Were they under British or Canadian control; or, what was the control? As regards Canadian soldiers in training in the British camps, the control, so far as Canada was concerned, was perfectly satisfactory; we controlled them completely. As regards the Canadian corps, and Canadian troops in France outside of the corps, the situation was somewhat different, and when I went overseas I found that that particular part of our relations with the British authorities had not been so well defined as I should have liked. I, therefore, took the question up with the Secretary of State for War and with Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig at the front, and I had several conferences on that particular subject. We found that recommendations for promotion and advancement, recommendations for new establishments and organizations and many other things which had no particular reference to immediate military operations, were sometimes delayed by going in a roundabout way from general headquarters in France to the War Office, and from there to Canadian headquarters in London. We accordingly devised a scheme of having, at general headquarters in France, a Canadian section, through the establishment of which the Government of Canada got as closely as possible in touch with the commander-in-chief of the British armies in France, and it was arranged that all matters in connection with Canadian soldiers, except those having for their end military operations, would be referred to this section,

and that this section would communicate direct with Canadian headquarters in London for final approval. At first the British authorities demurred in respect to this organization, but after it was formed and began working, it proved to be a success, and they were grateful that it was established, because it enabled the Canadian representative at general headquarters in France, namely, General Embury, to have conferences with different officers under Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig and to get together a staff which was desirable and necessary.

Mr. MURPHY: Who composed that section?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: General Embury was the head of the section. He organized the section, and his work proved very successful. General Embury has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Saskatchewan.

Mr. MURPHY: Were there any other members?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Yes, there was a regular staff including a representative of the Adjutant-General, a representative of the Quartermaster-General, a representative of the Director of Medical Services and representatives of the other branches.

Mr. MURPHY: The minister has not the names at the moment?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I have not the names of the members of the section in France, but they are available. It may not be generally known and understood that outside of the Canadian corps in France, we always had from 40,000 to 50,000 troops in various formations and units. At the time of the armistice the numbers were not quite as large as they had been, we having altogether 1,608 officers, and 37,174 other ranks not under the control of the corps commander. The following are the details:

	Officers.	Other Ranks.
Corps of Canadian Railway Troops	491	14,390
Canadian Forestry Corps	376	11,375
Canadian Cavalry Brigade	141	2,719
Canadian Army Medical Corps	360	2,467
Canadian Army Service Corps	57	1,675
Canadian Engineers Reinforcement Pool	49	1,214
Canadian Labour Pool	—	1,881
Canadian Base Signal Pool	8	432
Canadian Army Veterinary Corps	9	438
Canadian Army Dental Corps	52	104
Miscellaneous Details	65	479
Totals	1,608	37,174

These were troops that were operating partially under the British commander and partially under us, but they were not under

the Canadian Corps Commander, and the Canadian section was, in my judgment, extremely necessary, not only to assist the corps commander, in carrying on operations, but to control these troops more efficiently.

As regards the necessity of taking action with reference to new organizations within the corps, it was the desire of the Imperial authorities that our army organizations should, as far as possible, be similar to theirs, but it was found by our commanders that in certain formations reinforcements which did not exist in the Imperial forces were desirable.

In the last hundred days of the war our Army was stronger than at anytime previously, because we had largely reinforced existing Establishment and organized new establishments, and I shall put this on record for the information of the House. Between January 1, 1918 and November 11, 1918, the following organizations and increases were carried out:

	Officers.	Other Ranks.
1. Organization of two Corps Tramway Companies.	6	528
2. Organization of three Forestry Hospitals.	19	62
3. Reorganization of Canadian Engineers, involving in addition to absorption, of four Pioneer Battalions, and three Field Companies of 5th Division, an increase of.	163	3,822
4. Reorganization of Machine Gun Companies into Machine Gun Battalions, involving increase of.	8	1,100

	Officers.	Other Ranks.
5. Formation of one additional Company for each of the four Machine Gun Battalions and necessary increase of Battalion Headquarters.	80	1,953
6. Organization Canadian Corps Survey Section.	4	162
7. Organization two Sections Divisional M.T. Company for 5th Canadian Divisional Artillery.	2	78
8. Reorganization 1st Motor Machine Gun Brigade, and creation of 2nd Motor Machine Gun Brigade, involving, in addition to absorption of three Machine Gun Companies of 5th Division, an increase of.	7	263
9. Organization No. 9 Employment Company.	1	425
10. Organization H.Q. Corps M.T. Column.	4	13
11. Increase of 100 O.R.'s, per Infantry Battalion.	—	4,300
12. Organization Canadian Corps Veterinary Evacuation Station.	1	30
13. Organization Nos. 1 and 2 Forestry Companies.	12	370
14. Organization Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Company.	5	130
15. Organization Marne Group H.Q., C.F.C.	3	19
	315	13,759

In addition to general reinforcements it has been necessary from time to time to organize new units, and the following schedule gives in detail the strength of complete units despatched to France between January 1, 1918, and November 11, 1918:

Complete Units Despatched to France.	Off.	O.R.	Date of Despatch.
10th Canadian Siege Battery.	6	175	14/3/18
13th, 14th, and 15th Field Companies.	17	614	16/3/18
H.Q. and Signal Sub-Section 3rd H.A. Brigade.	6	45	19/3/18
17th, 18th, and 19th Machine Gun Companies.	30	531	23/3/18
13th Battalion Canadian Railway Troops.	36	977	28/3/18
11th Canadian Siege Battery.	6	175	2/4/18
69th Wagon Erecting Company.	3	269	9/4/18
5th Canadian Aircraft Section.	2	41	6/5/18
12th Canadian Siege Battery.	6	175	31/5/18
14th Canadian Field Ambulance.	12	233	5/6/18
5th Canadian Sanitary Section.	1	27	5/6/18
12th and 13th Companies Canadian Forestry Corps.	10	370	27/6/18
No. 11 District H.Q. Forestry Corps.	8	41	4/8/18
9th, 10th and 11th Companies Canadian Forestry Corps.	15	555	30/8/18
Squadron R.N.W.M.P.	6	154	6/10/18
7th and 8th Companies Canadian Forestry Corps.	8	364	10/10/18
	172	4,746	
Total increase in existing Units in the Field.	315	13,755	
Total complete new Units despatched to France.	172	4,746	
Grand Total.	487	18,501	

These latter were entirely new organizations for which there was generally no corresponding organization or unit in the Imperial Forces. They amounted to sixteen different units, and were composed of 172 officers and 4,746 other ranks. In other words, from January 1 to November 11, 1918, the strength of the Canadian corps was increased by reorganization and new units, for most of which there was no counterpart in the Imperial Forces, by 487 officers and 18,501 other ranks.

After I had been in England a very short time, I found that it would be of advantage to the minister in carrying on his work to have an Overseas Military Council formed on the same principle and having the same functions as the Militia Council at Ottawa. This Overseas Council, which acts in an advisory capacity to the minister, was organized in the spring of 1918, and was composed as follows:

The Minister; the Deputy Minister (who at present is Col. G. S. Harrington); the Chief of the General Staff, Sir Richard Turner, V.C., K.C.B., etc.; the Adjutant General, Major-General P. E. Thacker; the Quartermaster-General, Brigadier-General D. M. Hogarth; the Accountant General, Col. W. R. Ward; the Director-General of Medical Services, Major-General G. L. Foster; the Paymaster-General, Brigadier-General J. G. Ross.

Meetings of the Council have been regularly held, and much benefit has resulted from the exchange of opinions and views, and from the adoption of a uniform policy. When General Currie moved his headquarters from France about five weeks ago, to make his headquarters in London I asked him to take a seat on the Council in order that we might have the benefit of his ripe experience in all matters which still had to be dealt with. He consented. The name of Lieut.-Col. T. Gibson, Assistant Deputy Minister, was also added to the Council.

Mr. DEVLIN: Were these men acting on the Council purely from patriotic motives or were they paid a salary?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The men whose names I have mentioned are the members of the staff and are the heads of different branches of the service at headquarters. They receive the regular pay of officers, but most of them were engaged in professional or business life in Canada before the war, and they sacrificed the earnings from their professions or business from patriotic motives.

The Chief of the General Staff, Sir Richard Turner, and his immediate staff

was responsible for the training in Great Britain. It might interest the House if I refer briefly to certain loans of officers to the Imperial authorities for special duties in connection with what was known as the Mesopotamia party, the North Russia party, including the Archangel and Murmansk Forces, the Palestine party, and as instructors for the American Army. In January, 1918, the British Government asked us to loan them certain officers and non-commissioned officers to proceed to Mesopotamia. Fifteen officers and twenty-seven non-commissioned officers were selected from the Canadian forces and left England during the same month. These men were sent out for the purpose of training and organizing an army of the natives to the north and northeast of the area where the British forces were operating at that time, to help the British meet the Turkish forces. Only 14 of this party remained to be returned to England at the end of March, 1919, and I think by this time all have been returned.

Mr. POWER: Can the minister give us any information as to the instructions that were given to the men that went to Mesopotamia? I understand they went on a very, very secret mission.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: It was a very secret mission. The British authorities sent out a considerable number of men, and we sent the force I have mentioned, which formed only a small proportion of the total force, for the purpose of training the Armenians and other nationalities occupying the territory to the east and northeast of where the British forces were operating, in the direction of the Caspian Sea. A very mixed race occupies that territory, and it was for the purpose of organizing them if possible into an auxiliary force that these men were sent out.

Mr. POWER: Is it true that the officers were obliged to pledge themselves not to communicate with their relatives for a period of one year or more?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I could not say as to that; I do not think any special instructions of that kind were given. All telegrams and mail were subject to the censorship, and the officers and soldiers become pretty familiar with the rules and regulations, and as a general rule do not try to break them. The men in Mesopotamia were volunteers, as were also those in North Russia, at Archangel and Murmansk. The Archangel

force was composed of specially selected personnel of five officers and eleven other ranks; the Sixteenth Brigade Canadian Field Artillery consisted of eighteen officers and 478 other ranks, and in the special mobile force on the Murmansk coast there were eighteen officers and seventy-four other ranks, making a total of forty-one officers and 563 other ranks. Archangel harbour I believe is still frozen, and on the Murmansk coast, which lies to the west the men are engaged in holding the Murman peninsula and railway which reaches to the all-year open port on the Arctic ocean. We intend to get these men back to England and to Canada as soon as possible.

Our men have been the backbone of that expedition, because they were physically fit and understood their work, and I have no hesitation in saying that they were the best of the troops sent there. There were a great many thousands sent there, including British, French, and American troops. Then in the summer of 1918 volunteers were called for a bridging party to Palestine, and six officers and 250 other ranks proceeded, all of whom have been returned.

There has been an impression abroad, and I have heard some echoes of it, that officers whose duties called them to carry on work in England tried to remain there as much as possible in areas where training was going on and where other necessary work preparatory to going to the front was being done. It is alleged that these men preferred to remain in England rather than to go to the front. This impression is entirely erroneous. Out of 1,000 officers I do not think you will find one who did not prefer service at the front, rather than in England, particularly in London. Soon after I took office I instituted a policy with respect to the exchange of officers between England and France, which resulted in a continuous circulation of officers between the two countries, no matter what positions the men occupied, unless under special circumstances where one or two might be found to be of greater service in England.

During the period we have been at war it is gratifying to record that our soldiers have been awarded 17,000 medals, honours, and awards, including 53 Victoria Crosses, 1,885 Military Crosses, 19 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 1,204 Distinguished Conduct Medals, and 6,610 Military Medals.

Mr. GRIESBACH: You say that there were 17,000 decorations. Do those which you have enumerated comprise that number?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Looking at the figures here, I do not think they make that total. However, the official record is that the forces of Canada, since the time they first went into action, were awarded upwards of 17,000 medals and honours, in the proportion I have mentioned. The figures as they are here do not lend themselves to addition, but I do not think they total 17,000. I see that the Distinguished Service Order is omitted from this, also C.B.'s and C. M. G.'s so I presume that may account for the difference. However, I can get that information for my hon. friend.

After it was decided by the Government to grant a liberal gratuity to soldiers, particularly those who had served overseas, it became apparent to us that it would be necessary to have some regulation with respect to discharges in England. The matter had always been more or less under restraint, but it was felt that there would be an anxiety on the part of soldiers—and indeed it was soon manifested after the armistice—to get home and be demobilized. So that in order that we might deal justly with all soldiers who wished to be demobilized in England, we embarked on a policy, and the conditions on which a Canadian soldier may be demobilized in England under that policy are that:

- (a) He was born in the British Isles.
- (b) He has no dependents in Canada.
- (c) He has dependents or relatives in the British Isles in such circumstances as warrant his retention there for financial or domestic reasons.
- (d) He has a bona fide offer of employment or has independent means of support irrespective of any pay or gratuity payable by the Government.

In that way, we were able to discharge those soldiers in England who justly could not be asked to come back to Canada, but it did not lead to a wholesale discharge of Canadian soldiers in England, nor could soldiers be demobilized out of their turn.

Mr. POWER: Do those soldiers lose their war service gratuity?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: No, they do not. A matter of great importance to the Canadian people at the moment is the desire of relatives and others to see the graves of men who have been buried in France and Belgium, and I have received a great many applications for passes to visit these graves. Shortly before I left England I paid a visit to France and Belgium to see for myself what was the condition of the graves of our soldiers there, and I think it might be well

to explain to the House what the situation is.

Those who have lost relatives in the war derive a great deal of comfort and consolation in being able to visit the graves of their dead, and as time grows on such a pilgrimage will become increasingly the custom. On the 13th of April, 1917, an organization known as the Imperial War Graves Commission was constituted by resolution passed by the Imperial War Conference, which consists of a large number of representative men. Canada's representative in that organization is the High Commissioner for Canada, Sir George Perley. There are 160,000 isolated graves on the battlefields of France and Belgium, and the total number of graves of British soldiers in those areas is comprised as follows: United Kingdom, 452,730; Canada, 43,631; Australia, 35,131; New Zealand, 11,393; South Africa 4,450; South African Native Labour Corps, 535; Newfoundland, 888; India natives, 5,665; and British West Indies, 956. This represents a total of British graves in France and Belgium of 555,379.

There are, as I have said, a hundred and sixty thousand isolated graves on the battlefields of France and Belgium, and for some time before the armistice was signed, and ever since that date, soldiers from the Dominions of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and Imperial soldiers, have been exhuming the bodies of the soldiers in those graves, and placing them in cemeteries. I am glad to say that Canada has done her full duty in this respect, and I believe Australia has also. I fancy that the British authorities have had more difficulty in carrying out their duty in this regard, owing to the fact that there were a far larger number of bodies of British soldiers than of overseas soldiers buried in these isolated graves. I would like to say that we have a corps of approximately six or seven hundred soldiers who since the armistice have devoted themselves to the work of exhuming bodies and placing them in regularized cemeteries. That duty fell largely to the soldiers who came over to Great Britain under the Military Service Act. It is greatly to their credit that they were willing to do this work and that they have done it faithfully and well. About the time I visited France the intention was to relieve these men of the work, and call for volunteers to take their places from the soldiers who were in England and had come over under the Military Service Act, promising them that they would not be detained any longer on account of this work, and that they would be demobilized when their turn came and their

time would be occupied while they were awaiting demobilization. I have since been told that the thousand men that were asked for readily came forward and have since been sent over to France and are carrying out this duty. A great many of the cemeteries which I have visited were in excellent condition; others were not in such a good state. I fancy that after the soldiers have all returned from France it will be necessary, in some way or other, to employ civilian labour to assist in carrying on this work.

As any one who has studied the question at all will realize, the disposition of the property and equipment belonging to the Canadian Government was one of considerable concern to myself and to the members of the staff in England. In time of war, and when the fighting has ceased, especially in the case of this particular war, considerable quantities of stores are piled up, and when hostilities are at an end they are of very little value indeed. They are in such tremendous quantities that they constitute a burden; there is no place in which to store them and if they are left out in the open they rust and decay. We had to take this question up and see what was the best thing to do under all the circumstances.

In the first place we had a considerable surplus of ordnance stores—clothing, equipment, and all the articles that the soldier uses and wears, and that are necessary to the carrying on of war—which run into thousands of different things. About the month of July last, or at any rate several months before the signing of the armistice, I felt that the time must come when we would have to face this question, and the Government would be under considerable loss unless some system for the disposition of these stores was organized. Therefore, I communicated with the Secretary of State for War with respect to it. We had, for instance in connection with ordnance stores, in England a corps of about six hundred men to attend to these stores. I asked the Secretary of State for War if the Imperial authorities would take these stores over and allow us the value. Then we would draw our supplies from the Imperial ordnance stores, and release the six hundred men referred to for other duties, or release them altogether. After considerable negotiations the proposition was assented to, valuers were put on the work, and stock was taken. When the armistice was signed on November 11th last, the transaction had been practically completed

and a good deal of work had been done upon it. It was not, however, altogether closed, and it looked to me at one time as though the situation would take on a different aspect. However, as we were dealing with the Imperial Government, and as negotiations had so far advanced and so much work had been done, they took over our ordnance stores in England amounting in value to several million dollars, and allowed us one hundred cents on the dollar for them, with the exception of a few things which had deteriorated, and which we valued at from fifty to eighty-eight or ninety cents on the dollar. Accordingly that amount of money will be on credit with the Imperial Government to us against any indebtedness, or we will get the cash for the articles, in accordance with whatever adjustment may be made.

Mr. McKENZIE: When the minister speaks of being allowed one hundred cents on the dollar, does he mean the valuation that the appraisers made of the stores, or the cost of them to the Dominion Government?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I mean the value if we bought the stores from the Imperial ordnance stores of Great Britain; the figure they would charge us when we needed such stores; the price which they had fixed by valuation.

Mr. McKENZIE: I am afraid the minister did not understand my question. In stating that he obtained a valuation of one hundred cents on the dollar, does he mean the value of the stores he had on hand, based upon what those stores cost the Dominion Government, or the appraisalment put upon them by the officials of the Imperial Government?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I am under the impression that the appraisalment was based upon the cost to the Imperial Government of similar stores which might have been in some cases more, and in other cases less, than the stores had cost us.

Another problem which confronted us was the disposition of twenty-four thousand horses and mules which were in France and Belgium on service with the different units. As there were a great many such animals in the British army, and in all the other armies, there was a surplus of horses and mules which were not needed, and to have brought them back to Canada would have cost double what the animals were worth. We were therefore asked to pool all our horses and mules in France and Belgium with the British authorities and take our chance as

to what we could get from the disposal of them. The cost of keeping a horse at the time, owing to the scarcity of fodder, was about a dollar and a quarter a day, so that hon. gentlemen will see that it was not a matter which could be allowed to drag along for any very great length. In addition, there were seventy-two officers and seven hundred and fifty-six other ranks looking after these horses and mules. In addition there were twelve hundred and fifty sick horses in hospital, needing the services of four hundred and sixty-seven men of other ranks. Accordingly we entered into negotiations with the Government of Belgium for the sale of these horses and mules, and after considerable negotiation we closed with the Belgian Government for the sale of the animals at £40, or roughly speaking, \$200 per head. There were a few very excellent animals among the horses, and a great many of the others were not in first class condition; and certainly the mules were not quite as valuable as the best, or even as valuable as some of the remaining horses. Although we had some difficulty in getting the matter finally settled up, I am glad to say we received receipts for all the horses before I left, which receipts are now in the safety deposit vaults of the Bank of Montreal in London.

Mr. POWER: How is the purchase money being paid?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: We are taking the debentures of the Belgian Government at five per cent interest. The debentures are due in ten years, but the Belgian Government has the right to liquidate at any time within that period if it so desires.

There is another question in connection with the matter of equipment, and it relates to property in France. We had accumulated a tremendous amount of property in France in the way of transport, transport vehicles, field guns, and everything that goes to equip an army.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Rails?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Rails are not included in these stores. They were supplied by the British field authorities.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I understood that rails were also supplied by the Canadian Government.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I remember the debates in this House on that question. I should imagine that those rails were sold to the Imperial Government. But that is not a matter that came to my attention at all. How to deal with the enormous

equipment was a very difficult problem, because, as I have said, we had no place to store it. Therefore we entered into an arrangement with the Imperial authorities whereby they took over all this material from us, and we delivered it to them in France and Belgium at specified points. Some of this material we require in Canada. We have the privilege of drawing from Imperial stores in England material of a similar quality to that delivered in France as soon as we ascertain what we require here and can find transportation for it from Great Britain.

Mr. MURPHY: When such sales or purchases are made as the hon. gentleman has indicated, where are the accounts kept; in England or in Canada? And if any money passes, who is the custodian of it?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: General Ross, the Paymaster General in England, takes charge of the finances. The money passes direct from Government to Government.

Mr. POWER: In connection with the taking over of these stores by the Imperial authorities, is any rental being paid to the Canadian Government for the use of rails or for any other equipment that is now in the possession of the Imperial Government?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: As I explained a moment ago, the question of rails is one that did not come under my notice at all. These transactions are direct between the British Government and the Canadian Government.

Mr. POWER: Is any rental paid for any other equipment which is now in the possession of the Imperial Government awaiting decision of this Government as to its disposal?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: It is stored in British Government buildings. We are not paying any rental.

Mr. POWER: Are the Imperial authorities making any use of it?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: No. The equipment comprises guns and equipment for the most part—not material that is useful in peace times.

Mr. LEMIEUX: What share have we of the war trophies?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I will come to that in a moment. It will be interesting to the members of this House—although a great many of them already are aware of it—to know that all the mail for our soldiers both in England and France was

handled by the Canadian postal corps. That mail was handled by them first in London, and then sent to the Canadian forces in France and in England and distributed by other branches of the corps there. In 1918 it is estimated that the number of letters handled by the corps was 68,174,000; newspapers, 10,226,100; parcels, 5,332,670; registered letters and parcels, 433,600—making the stupendous total of 85,166,370 pieces of mail.

I will take up now the question of war trophies about which my hon. friend asked me. That is a matter of considerable importance, and the document which I have in my hand contains a little later information than that in the report which I laid upon the table of the House. I will take the liberty of reading this memorandum which is signed by Colonel Folger, who has the responsibility in connection with securing war trophies for Canada:

Memorandum on War Trophies

(1) On the 5th July, 1917, the Colonial Secretary informed the Governor General of Canada that it had been decided to allocate Trophies captured by the Dominion Troops to the Dominion concerned.

(2) It was also laid down that the Trophies would become the property of the Dominion Government and allocation of these Trophies would rest with them and not with the Military Authorities.

(3) The Imperial War Trophies Committee was formed to control all War Trophies, and, on the 11th July, 1917, Sir George Perley, Acting Minister, appointed Colonel Folger as the Canadian representative on this Imperial Committee.

(4) Canadian War Trophies may be classified under three heads:—

(a) Guns, Machine Guns, Tanks, etc., which are actually captured and labelled by individual Units.

(b) Smaller articles of interest to War Museums such as German equipment, armour, shells, shell cases, munitions, etc.

(c) War aeroplanes and aeronautical equipment.

(5) Trophies captured by individual Units are labelled by these Units and turned in to the Imperial Ordnance Department in the field. These are eventually transferred to the Imperial Ordnance Depot at Croydon, where the claims of Units are investigated and, on such claims being substantiated, the Trophies become available for shipment to Canada.

(6) Trophies classified under sub-head (b) are those which are collected by the Salvage Corps and troops generally and by the Canadian Inspector of War Trophies in the Field.

(7) Trophies under sub-head (c) are those which have been obtained by application from the Air Ministry.

(8) Trophies under sub-head (a), claims for which have been substantiated are shipped to Canada as shipping becomes available, and, up to the present, the following have been forwarded:—

	Field Guns.	Trench Mortars.	Machine Guns.	Misc.
August, 1917. . .	7	6	6	67
Oct., 1917 . . .	3	6	6	63
Feb., 1918. . .	—	—	—	6
June, 1918. . .	6	7	20	124
Sept., 1918. . .	—	—	141	270
Jan., 1919. . .	5	—	75	99
March, 1919. . .	21	—	—	—
April, 1919. . .	65	—	—	—
	107	19	248	629

(9) Trophies under sub-head (b) are being sorted in this country—meaning England of course—at the present time and have yet to be packed and shipped.

(10) Trophies under sub-head (c) are being prepared for shipment and will consist of approximately 40 German aeroplanes with a considerable quantity of component parts. In addition, the Italian and French Governments have been asked for donations of aeronautical equipment.

(11) The Canadian Inspector of War Trophies has collected a large number of smaller articles of interest to a Canadian War Museum, which have been taken from the battle fields where the Canadians have fought. These consist of trench signs, buried machine guns, field telephones, searchlights, rifles, etc.

(12) A special allotment of 5,000 German rifles and bayonets has also been made to Canada as well as 5,000 empty brass shell cases of various sizes.

(13) A large assortment has also been obtained from the Ministry of Munitions of Shells, Fuses, Grenades, etc., which will show the progress made in munitions, inventions, etc., during the war. These are also useful for instructional purposes.

(14) A varied collection of German proclamations, posters, propaganda literature, flags, German uniforms, decorations, etc., has also been collected.

(15) The total of the above results in a very large collection which will require a large building to accommodate them satisfactorily. Arrangements should be made in Canada for the housing of these articles before shipment from this side and some definite organization appointed for the handling of these articles. When all these trophy collections are gathered together, Canada will have a display which will be second to none in the British Empire.

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX: Has my hon. friend any suggestion to offer as to the location of those trophies?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: An organization, headed by Dr. Doughty of the Archives, has been formed here for the purpose.

Mr. GRIESBACH: Will all war trophies captured by our forces become the property of the Canadian Government?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: That is the intention.

Mr. GRIESBACH: What will the trophies amount to in round numbers, that is, field guns, trench mortars and machine guns?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I have here only a statement of those trophies which have already been shipped to Canada; others are in process of being removed from France to England, and they have not all been received in England yet; but in a very short time we will know exactly what we have got.

Early in 1918 the British authorities requested that the organization of the Canadian corps be somewhat changed. Owing to casualties, the British army had been so reduced in numbers that they had either to cut down the number of men in a division or reduce the number of infantry brigades in a division. They decided to reduce the number of infantry brigades in a division. That was done I believe in the German army as well as in the British. We were asked to do likewise, but after giving the matter very careful consideration it was thought desirable not to agree to the proposal, but to maintain our organization of four divisions, three brigades to a division, and four battalions to a brigade. The idea was to break the Canadian corps up into six small divisions instead of four large, strong divisions. It was thought that the Canadian corps had rendered such splendid service under its existing organization that it would be a great mistake to accede to the request of the Imperial authorities. It was thought better to try to strengthen the corps, if possible, in other ways. The adding of 100 infantrymen to each of the 48 battalions was one method we adopted for strengthening the Canadian corps. We strengthened it also by the introduction of many other units for which there was no corresponding unit in the British army. Besides the disadvantage of the effect upon the morale of the Canadian corps which would be brought about by such a change as was suggested, the expense would have been tremendous.

Mr. POWER: Were our four divisions equivalent in rifle power to six British divisions.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I think so, quite, at that time. The change would have necessitated six new brigade staffs, two new divisional staffs, one additional corps staff and possibly something in the nature of an army staff to direct the two corps, all of which would have involved great expense and a heavy drain upon the available supply of trained staff officers. So that we decided to keep the corps as it was and

strengthen it as I have explained. We have since had no reason to regret having adopted that course.

Another thing we always aimed at was to keep the Canadian corps together. It required a good deal of negotiating at times to prevent one or more divisions from being taken out of the corps and placed in some other part of the line. I frequently approached the War Office and the Secretary of State for War on this subject; on more than one occasion I spoke to Sir Douglas Haig about it. I had the pleasure and the honour of speaking to Marshal Foch with regard to it, at a time when he was anxious for reinforcements. I told him that if he wanted reinforcements from Canada he should not break up the Canadian corps and in a case of emergency place a division twenty, forty, fifty or a hundred miles away from the corps. I assured him that the best results would be obtained if the Canadian corps was kept intact. Through the representations of General Currie and his officers to general headquarters, supplemented by anything we could do in England, we managed to keep the corps pretty well together, except on that occasion when the Second Division had to go down the line and was kept away longer than we desired.

Mr. GRIESBACH: The action of the British authorities in moving a division about arose out of their policy of regarding the division as the unit of manoeuvre; it was not through any desire to move the Canadians about improperly. In the Canadian corps, however, it was desired to keep the four divisions together under the corps.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Whatever the reasons may have been; whatever the conditions were from their standpoint, we always took the ground that it was desirable to keep the Canadian corps intact, not to move one division after the other away from time to time.

The Canadian Cavalry Brigade, which brought such credit to Canada, did not come under General Currie or the corps; it was a separate organization and operated with the British cavalry in France. General J. E. B. Seely, a very distinguished officer, a member of the British Parliament, and formerly Secretary of State for War was the first commander of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade. But the time came when we embarked upon the same policy with regard to the Cavalry Brigade as we had adopted with regard to all other establishments and units—that of placing a Cana-

dian officer in charge as soon as a competent one was available. In this case the command was given to Brigadier General R. W. Paterson, D.S.O., of the Fort Garry Horse. The Canadian Cavalry Brigade was composed of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Lord Strathcona's Horse, Fort Garry Horse, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, Machine-gun Squadron, Cavalry Field Ambulance and Mobile Veterinary Section.

I would like to say this with regard to General Seely. His services were greatly appreciated; his record was one of great credit to him in connection with the Canadian Cavalry Brigade. The reason why General Paterson was made commander of the brigade was because it was our policy to place Canadian officers in charge of such units in all cases where they were available.

I should like to say a word with regard to the air force. More than eight thousand Canadians have held commissions in the Imperial Air Force. As the burden of the fighting and the danger falls almost entirely on officers, this is a record of which Canada may well be proud.

Mr. McMASTER: How many were in the Imperial Air Force altogether, and what proportion were Canadians?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I have not the figures at hand, but we could secure them. The question of what the proportion was has always interested me. At one time I was under the impression from figures which I received that about thirty per cent of the officers in the Imperial Air Service were Canadians. I am still under the impression that the percentage was at least quite twenty-five per cent; it may have been fully thirty per cent. As soon as it was possible for me to take the question up I discovered that it was desirable that we should have some better control of the record of these Canadians in the Royal Air Force and in the Royal Naval Air Service. I negotiated with Lord Weir, Minister of the Air Service, and we succeeded in obtaining important concessions with regard to records. The Canadian officers in the Royal Air Service are classified as follows:

1. Officers seconded or attached to the R.F.C., R.N.A.S., and R.A.F. up to December 31, 1918.	1,239
2. Other ranks of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada transferred to the above from June 1, 1916 to December 31, 1918.	2,721
3. Cadets enlisted in Canada by the Imperial Authorities and despatched to the above Services.	4,280
Total.	8,240

These were transferred to or enlisted direct by the British authorities in the Royal Air Force.

I might, perhaps, say just a word as to the repatriation of these young men. Those that were seconded from us to the Royal Air Force came back to us and were repatriated with our forces. The young men enlisted in Canada in the Royal Air Force, and also a certain number who were transferred outright to the British authorities, did not come back to our forces, and they are the young men who, it has been stated in the press, have not been able to get steamer accommodation to return to Canada. It is the responsibility of the Imperial Government to repatriate these officers. However, we did all we could to get steamer accommodation for them, but when 50,000 of our own troops are being returned monthly, it is impossible to accommodate everybody and somebody has to wait. We have been able to transport 1,000 of them to Canada recently, but I should not like to say that that does not mean that some of our troops have been held back a little.

Mr. POWER: By whom were these officers paid?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Officers who were enlisted in Canada by the British authorities and officers transferred outright by us were paid by the British, but officers, seconded by us to the British were paid by Canada.

Mr. POWER: Does that include flying pay?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: It includes everything.

Mr. POWER: We pay the full pay?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: We pay the full pay if they are seconded by us. We finally succeeded in getting the British Minister of Air to furnish us with the following information regarding Canadians in the Royal Air Force:

1. The Royal Air Force agreed to furnish the minister with a nominal roll of Canadians in the Royal Air Force, and to advise him from time to time of all accretions to and deductions from it.

2. All Canadians in the Royal Air Force were to be permitted to wear a Canadian badge either on their shoulder straps or on their sleeve.

3. It was agreed to give Canadians representation on the Royal Air Force Headquarters and Staff.

4. A monthly statement of the exploits of Canadian airmen was to be furnished to the minister, with a view to its dissemination to the Canadian public.

5. It was agreed in principle that Canada should have a Flying Corps of her own, which, while distinct in its organization and administration, would form part of the Royal Air Force for the purpose of operations in the field.

I should now like to take up for a moment the matter of the Canadian Air Force. It was found there was a great desire on the part of the people of this country and of some of the officers themselves in our forces overseas that we should have a distinct air force and it was felt that we should eventually have a nucleus for an air force, more particularly in view of the future development of this branch of the service, not only in a military, but in a commercial sense. We negotiated on this point with the British authorities, and it was very difficult to work out a plan whereby, if we organized a Canadian force, it could operate in connection with the Royal

5 p.m. Air Force at the front. After a good deal of negotiation, however,

it was arranged that we were to have an air force of our own, but the men did not have time to become thoroughly trained organized and equipped before the 11th of November. There are, in England two squadrons of the Canadian Air Force, these squadrons being formed in accordance with this memorandum:

1. That the formation of two Canadian Air Squadrons should be proceeded with forthwith.

2. That these squadrons should be organized in England by the Overseas Military Forces of Canada in conjunction with the Royal Air Force.

3. That the type of Unit and equipment should be decided by the Air Council.

The fourth item is quite a long memorandum which I shall not attempt to read, but it deals with the way in which we should get the personnel. I feel very strongly upon the desirability of, at any rate for a time, retaining intact these two flying squadrons in the service of Canada. Canadians have shown themselves adaptable for this particular branch of the service; to use a commonplace expression, they have taken to it as a duck takes to water. They have made a great record in France, and it would be a pity if we did not do what other nations are doing in connection with a Flying Branch of the Military service, not only with respect to military operations which might be considered a secondary matter, but with respect to commercial air flying in the future. In view of all these considerations and also the pride our Canadians have taken in flying, and their splendid deeds, it would be a great pity if, when these men return to Canada, they should be just demobilized and sent to the four corners of the country, without our having a nucleus for a flying corps. I hope this matter will be taken into careful consideration and that something will be done in this regard.

We have quite a nucleus for an air force. Nineteen of the latest and best air machines were presented to us by the British people, sixteen through the Overseas Club and three through the Imperial Air Fleet. In addition to that we expect to get from the British Government ninety-two aircraft, made up as follows:

- 30 only Avro two-seater biplanes.
- 12 only single-seater-camels (Scout fighters).
- 50 only two-seater D.H. 9. Day Bombing Machines.

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This is a gift from the British Government whenever we wish to accept it, and, in fact, I understand it has already been accepted. There are many other aircraft which are available for Canada. Of captured enemy aircraft there are 21 Fokkers, 39 various other enemy aircraft and 5 Gothas, which, including the nineteen to which I referred to before, make 84. Then we have an expectation of getting 14 machines from the French Government, 16 from the Italian Government and 24 from the British Government and, I believe, there are already in Canada 50 Curtis machines from the British Government. Therefore, I sincerely trust that all this equipment and the training of our airmen will be made use of, not only in a military but in a commercial sense.

Mr. NICKLE: Has the minister given any consideration to the lines along which this air force will be developed, whether it is to be an independent force or is to carry out work in conjunction with the military and naval branches of the service?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I cannot say as to that, as my work has been in England. Perhaps the Minister of Militia might be able to give my hon. friend some information on that point.

Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure): I noticed in the Montreal papers last night that a German submarine had reached Montreal on its way to the Great Lakes, having been handed over by Germany to the British authorities and by the British authorities to the United States Government. It has created a great deal of interest amongst the people of Montreal, and no doubt it will be exhibited in the different towns and cities on the Great lakes. Is Canada to be honoured in this way?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: My duties did not extend to the naval forces. I would say, however, that as this submarine must pass through Canadian waters, there should be

no difficulty in having her visit cities on the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes.

Mr. MARCIL: Does not the minister think Canada should be presented with a gift of this kind?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: If my hon. friend would put that question to the Prime Minister, who has been to the Peace Conference, he would no doubt be able to answer more definitely than I can as to what is going to be done with the German warships and submarines which are now in British ports.

Mr. LEMIEUX: The Mother Country received so many of these vessels on one day last Fall, that I think she might give some to the colonies.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Would my hon. friend be in favour of receiving them on condition that they become a part of the Canadian navy?

Mr. LEMIEUX: I stand for the Canadian navy still, and I believe one, if not two, of the minister's colleagues do. Can the minister tell us how many Canadians were enlisted in the British navy during the war?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I have not the figures for the naval forces. The work of the Canadian railway troops should not be overlooked. In 1915 the Canadian Pacific railway organized, at the request of the Department of Militia and Defence, over which my hon. friend from Victoria (Sir Sam Hughes) then presided, the Canadian Overseas Railway Construction Corps, composed of 500 picked men of the construction forces of the Canadian Pacific railway. This corps proceeded to France in August, 1915. In May, 1916, the War Office asked the Dominion to furnish another unit, approximately 1,000 strong, for railway construction work. This unit was organized by Lieut.-Col. J. W. Stewart, who afterwards became Major-General J. W. Stewart, C.B., C.M.G.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Is that Mr. Stewart, of Montreal?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: No, Mr. Stewart, of Vancouver, who is well known in Canada as a railway contractor.

Mr. LEMIEUX: They say he did excellent work.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Through the methods he introduced in France he rendered very great service, and he doubtless helped to bring the war to an earlier conclusion. In the summer of 1918, after occupying the position of Deputy Director of Light Railways, as well as being in imme-

diate command of Canadian Railway Construction battalions, Major-General Stewart was appointed Director of Construction, his duties embracing all construction of a railway engineering character in the zone of the British armies. The following table shows the comparative strength of the Imperial and Canadian Railway Construction Forces on the western front as at the dates given:

Date.	Nominal Strength Imperial Railway Construction Troops.	Nominal Strength Canadian Railway Construction Troops.
Dec. 31, 1915	2,440	512
Dec. 31, 1916	4,900	1,617
Jan. 30, 1917	7,340	11,562
Dec. 31, 1917	7,340	13,772
Nov. 11, 1918	7,340	14,877

The control of all the railway construction operations in France was largely in the hands of Major General J. W. Stewart. In addition to the railway troops I have mentioned, there were four Canadian Railway Troops Operating Companies, with a strength of 1,087 on November 11, 1918. The total strength of Canadian railway troops in England when the armistice was signed was 3,364. During their career at the front the personnel of the Corps of Canadian Railway Troops were awarded 489 honours and decorations.

Mr. PEDLOW: Did the minister keep a record of the men who returned during the fall of 1917 to engage in the elections in Canada?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I did not happen to be minister at that time.

Mr. PEDLOW: Would not a record be kept of these men?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I could not say offhand.

Mr. PEDLOW: The figures are not embodied in this report?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: No. The record of the Canadian Forestry Corps is one we have every reason to be proud of. Their service has been very highly appreciated and favourably commented upon by the Imperial authorities, including the Secretary of State for War.

Mr. PEDLOW: I understood the minister to say that he was overseas from 1914 onwards.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: My hon. friend from Victoria (Sir Sam Hughes) was Minister of Militia at that time. Later Sir George Perley was the Minister of Militia Over-

seas. I went over late in 1917, just before the election.

Mr. PEDLOW: The reason why—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Hon. members seem to overlook the fact that the House is not in committee. There has been a series of questions and interruptions which were certainly out of order, and I must ask hon. members to refrain from further interruptions.

Mr. LEMIEUX: It is a friendly chat.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Friendly chats across the floor are absolutely out of order.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I endorse your ruling, Sir, most heartily. I was going on to say that the Canadian Forestry Corps under the command of Maj.-General Alex. McDougall, C. B., deserves very great credit, indeed, for the splendid service it has rendered. The time at my disposal does not permit me to make as lengthy remarks on these organizations as I should like, but I wish to give these figures. On November 11, 1918, the total strength of the Canadian Forestry Corps in France, including prisoners of war attached to units, was 18,240.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Prisoners of war attached to Canadian units?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: We had thirteen companies of prisoners of war, totalling 5,021 men, attached to the Forestry Corps in France when the armistice was signed. In the British Isles at the same date the strength of the Forestry Corps, including 1,265 prisoners and 1,182 other attached men, was 13,207. The grand total in France and the British Isles of the Canadian Forestry Corps when the armistice was signed was 31,447.

The Forestry Corps saved the situation to a great extent in regard to shipping. Lumber is a very bulky freight and through the efforts of the Canadians, who understood forestry work and knew how to attain the best results, an entirely new situation was brought about. In 1913 Britain imported 11,600,000 tons of timber and lumber. This was reduced in 1916 to 6,000,000 tons, in 1917 to 2,775,000 tons, and in 1918 to 2,000,000 tons. So that the difference between 11,600,000 tons in 1913 and 2,000,000 tons in 1918 is almost entirely due to the work of the Canadian Forestry Corps who supplied the difference from home-grown timber. If they had not been as enthusiastic as they were, besides being capable and efficient, that much more shipping would have had to be engaged in the carrying of timber and lumber instead of being released

for the transfer of foodstuffs, etc. As my hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Griesbach) will no doubt tell you, a great amount of timber is necessary in connection with trench work and for many other purposes. The hon. gentleman knows more about this than I do, but I may say that it was through the efforts of the Canadian Forestry Corps that this situation, of which we have reason to be proud, was met.

Mr. POWER: Did the sawmill machinery, etc., belong to the Imperial Government or to the Canadian Government?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The Imperial Government. Now, I shall turn to the Canadian Army Medical Corps, which arose out of a permanent organization in Canada. In June, 1915, it had a bed capacity of 3,000 and in November, 1918, a capacity of 40,000. Our medical service in England and France was of greater capacity than the British medical service at the time of the South African War, and the great efficiency which this service attained was owing to a very considerable extent—and we need have no hesitation in giving full credit to those to whom it is due—to the services of Canadian civilian doctors, the best of whom sacrificed their practices and went overseas to render splendid service for Canada. I suppose we scarcely realize how much the doctors sacrificed. I sometimes argue with other professional men on the question of sacrifices in the war, and while I do not want to draw comparisons here, I think that a doctor of middle age makes a great sacrifice who turns the key in his door and leaves for England and France. He knows that from that time his income stops, and the results are not quite the same as in the case of a man of another calling who may have a partner or any one to assist him. I consider that the medical profession of Canada made great sacrifices for the work they did in the war, and it was through their splendid service that we accomplished such great results overseas. In order to put this matter fairly before the House, I desire to read a short extract from the report I laid on the Table in regard to the work of the doctors. What I shall read epitomizes the situation.

Just as there is "the man behind the gun," so there is the doctor and the man behind the lancet, and the nursing sister and the true Canadian woman behind the grim paraphernalia of her office. And great have been the souls and stout the hearts and deft the hands, not merely of the doctors and the nursing sisters, but all those "other ranks" who give the great machine of healing its life and its humanity. Unflinching in danger, resolute in duty, unremitting even in the drudgery of their

voluntary crusade against disease and death—to these devoted men and women go but the thanks of scores of thousands of Canadian soldiers, and the heartfelt gratitude of hundreds of thousands who loved the men maimed in the defence of Canada upon the fields of Flanders and of France.

So much for the doctors.

Just a word for the nursing sisters of Canada. Those of us who watched the great service they performed cannot fail to appreciate it at its full value, and in connection with the nursing sisters, whenever one talks of or refers to them in any way, one's mind irresistibly goes to the three frightful outrages perpetrated on them—the bombing of the Canadian hospitals at Etaples and Doullens, and the sinking of the Canadian hospital ship *Llandovery Castle*. The Germans made no mistake in regard to the bombing of the hospital at Doullens and Etaples, the former was isolated from any military camp; they sent their flares down and saw the great red cross; and numbers of the nursing sisters as well as the doctors and patients at the hospitals were wantonly murdered. Nothing that I can say would adequately express my outraged feelings on this subject, and I am sure that every hon. member feels the same sense of indignation. In the sinking of the *Llandovery Castle* fourteen Canadian Nursing Sisters were sent to a watery grave in the depths of the sea 116 miles from land, and in trying to cover up the outrage the Germans endeavoured to sink the remaining life boat in order thereby to obliterate all traces.

I might refer to the splendid assistance rendered our hospitals by the municipal governments throughout Canada and many voluntary organizations, especially the Canadian Red Cross and the St. John's Ambulance Association, besides the universities of Canada which did such magnificent work in sustaining our hospitals. I might read a list of them.

McGill University—No. 3 Canadian General Hospital.

Toronto University—No. 4 Canadian General Hospital.

Laval University—No. 6 Canadian General Hospital.

Queen's University—No. 7 Canadian General Hospital.

Saskatchewan University—No. 8 Canadian General Hospital.

Dalhousie University—No. 7 Canadian Stationary Hospital.

St. Francis Xavier College—No. 9 Canadian Stationary Hospital.

The Western University—No. 10 Canadian Stationary Hospital.

These universities have done nobly and have rendered tremendous assistance to the medical service.

Mr. NICKLE: Before the minister leaves the subject of the medical service, may I ask him a question? We have had some disquieting reports and rumours in reference to an alleged insufficiency of hospitalization in England, and it is said that Canadians in hospitals suffered through what I might call a lack of elasticity in the administration—a lack of sympathetic co-ordination between headquarters and the outside administration. Is there any justification for these reports?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I have not heard of such reports. May I ask the hon. member where he saw them?

Mr. NICKLE: Certain gentlemen returning to Canada made damaging and disquieting criticisms.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The administration of the Canadian Army Medical Corps has from the first been as good as if not better than any other. Indeed, I think our hospitals on the whole have been better conducted than any others.

Mr. NICKLE: Then, we had an excellent medical service?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: There is no doubt about it in my mind. In every way it was the very best there was.

Mr. ARCHAMBAULT: I should like to offer a correction in the information regarding Laval hospital. At page 396 of the Report it says:

No. 6 (Laval) Canadian General Hospital, Opened Troyes, January 23, 1917.

The unit of Laval started from Montreal in March 1916.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I am very glad the hon. member has made that correction and I shall have attention drawn to it. In further copies the necessary correction will be made.

In dentistry we also took a forward step, and in the two years, 1917 and 1918, the total number of dental operations performed in France and England by the Canadian Army Dental Corps was 2,255,442. As a result of this work a great many men were saved from being placed in lower categories and were made fit for A-1 service.

The chaplain services were of very great importance in the army. The Canadian chaplains rendered splendid service under the director, Colonel J. M. Almond, C.M.G. We had in all 280 chaplains and the following statistics in regard to them may prove of interest:

426 Chaplains have served with the Overseas Military Forces of Canada.

2 have been killed in action.

1 died of wounds.

1 died while serving on Hospital ship.

2 died of sickness.

21 chaplains have been wounded while discharging their duties at the front.

20 chaplains were usually selected to accompany the troops into action.

There are services which the chaplains perform on the battlefield to those that are dying and to the sick and the wounded, which I need not describe, because nearly every one is conversant with them.

I would like also to refer to the work of the Army Pay Corps. Earlier this afternoon some hon. gentlemen asked what duties the Army Pay Corps performed, and I would like now to give that explanation.

Broadly speaking, the Canadian Army Pay Corps performs three cardinal functions:—

(1) The paying of all debts incurred by the Canadian Government with contractors, with Imperial and other Dominion Governments, etc.

(2) The making of all payments to the troops of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada and their dependents.

(3) The adjustment of reciprocal accounts between the Imperial and other Governments, and the maintaining of records and statistics in reference thereto.

Now as to the Record Office. There is a Record Office in England whose duties are as follows:

Soldiers' Documents.—The collection, custody, verification and distribution of soldiers' documents involving:—

(a) Collection and checking of documents of Drafts arriving from Canada.

(b) Collection and forwarding to France of documents of Drafts proceeding to France, and receiving and distributing documents of men evacuated from France.

(c) Checking Casualty Forms of Drafts proceeding to France.

(d) Custody of various documents during the whole period a soldier is on the strength of Overseas Military Forces of Canada, and custody of his documents while he is in France or in Hospital in England.

Casualties.—The reporting of Casualties and tracing movements while in Hospital. Under this head are comprised:—

(a) The compilation, after verification, of Daily Casualty Lists from reports received both from France and from the different centres in England. This includes the reporting of transfers of Casualties from one Hospital to another.

(b) Notification of the next-of-kin when resident in England.

(c) In case of death in England or France registering the location of the grave, and obtaining details of the circumstances of death.

(d) Making enquiries for a period of six months in respect to men reported "Missing."

(e) Compiling and distributing lists of men invalidated to Canada and returned to Canada.

Mr. POWER: Would the minister be kind enough to tell me whether it was at his request that after the armistice Lieutenant Colonel Piché of Montreal was transferred to the Record Office in London?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The officer referred to was sent over to London by the Minister of Militia.

Mr. POWER: Was it impossible to find competent officers in England to do that work?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The Minister of Militia informs me that that question has already been answered by him in the House.

The Director of Military Estates is Colonel Robertson, and this office has handled the wills of 300,000 soldiers during the war.

When I reached England I organized an Overseas Purchasing Commission, somewhat upon the lines of the Purchasing Commission in Ottawa. Although not very much purchasing was needed in England I thought it was better to organize a commission for the purpose, and the members of it were officers in connection with our forces who were conversant with business conditions, and purchases were made by tender. Most of such purchases were from the Imperial Government, so the commission over there had not such heavy work to do as the Purchasing Commission in Ottawa.

I would like to refer for a moment to the Canadian War Records. We have a War Record Office, of which Lord Beaverbrook has had charge, which has recorded the history of the war since its outbreak. I think that owing to the efforts of Lord Beaverbrook we have the finest collection of historical documents, war paintings and photographs of any of the Allied nations, and the collection has been made at very little cost to Canada, the only expense incurred having been in connection with the payment of a few officers and O. R's., who assisted in placing these paintings and photographs on exhibition and in assisting in the work at different points. The paintings and photographs have been exhibited in London, and a prominent point in connection therewith is that the proceeds have gone towards defraying the expenses of painting the pictures. We have had the services of the best artists in connection with this work.

Mr. LEMIEUX: How many paintings are there?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: There is a catalogue of them, but I could not give the number of paintings offhand. At the Royal Academy a large extent of the wall space was taken up with Canada's war pictures, which formed a considerable part of the total exhibit. Besides that, we have a number of enlarged photographs which have been on exhibition not only in England, but in France and in the United States.

Mr. MURPHY: Does the minister mean to say that the cost of these paintings was defrayed by these exhibitions?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Yes, by the receipts from that and other sources; for instance, we had exhibits of cinematograph films. In addition to the paintings there are also the enlarged photographs and any one who is not a connoisseur of paintings might regard them as even greater works of art, although one would not feel safe in laying down any such canon as that. However, the photographs were very attractive and thousands and tens of thousands of persons viewed them at the recent exhibition in the Grafton Galleries, London. These photographs, as well as other evidences of Canadian activity at the front, have been displayed in France, the United States and England, and have served to advertise Canada to a remarkable degree.

Mr. MURPHY: Has the Canadian War Records Office kept any track of the monies that have been paid out?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The report for last year has already been tabled, as will be the next report as soon as it is ready.

Mr. MURPHY: The money in question was Canadian money, was it not?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: No, the receipts came from persons who saw the pictures, and were not by any means all Canadians. The cinematograph films, for instance, were viewed by thousands of people in England, France and the United States. They proved a great advertisement for Canada, as showing our efforts in the war, and they have caused the American people to greatly admire us for what we have done. As I say, the proceeds went to defray the cost incurred in making the paintings and taking the photographs.

Mr. MURPHY: If they had not been used those proceeds would have been the money of the Dominion of Canada?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: As to that, I do not know. I would not want to argue the matter with my hon. friend if he takes a

view which differs from mine. Lord Beaverbrook put considerable energy into the matter and has secured a collection of which this country should be very proud. By and by these paintings and photographs will come to Ottawa and we will need a large building in which to store them.

Mr. LEMIEUX: The minister has spoken about Canadian paintings. Would he kindly explain if the collection contains a painting representing a Canadian crucified by the Germans? The statement that there is such a painting has caused a lot of controversy in the press, and I would like the minister to give us the facts in that regard. If the statement is true, well and good, but if not it should not be allowed to remain uncontradicted.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I know to what my hon. friend refers, but it is not a picture. It is a statue cast in bronze about three feet high and two feet wide, which has been enclosed in a frame.

I saw the representation to which my hon. friend refers. The Germans took exception to this picture or statue—I forget the text book name of it—and they sent out a wireless from Germany criticising the position we had taken in exhibiting the representation and denying that such a thing ever happened. This was noted in the press, and I gave instructions that every effort should be made to ascertain if what we had represented could be substantiated. We succeeded in getting affidavits of two soldiers who witnessed the scene, and we got on the track of others who it was thought had seen it. We secured two affidavits at any rate.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Were they positive?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: They were affidavits by soldiers who saw the actual scene. One wore the Victoria Cross, and the father of one of them was employed in a position of importance in London. So after that denial was made by the Germans we issued a counter statement containing the particulars we had at that time. I do not think there can be any doubt but that the Germans were guilty of this atrocity.

The Canadian War Records have also performed splendid services in issuing a little paper called the Daily Record to the troops. No doubt you have all heard of it. It contained news items from Canada and was circulated daily.

The casualties in the war up to the 31st of March have been as follows:

Killed in action, 38,767; died of wounds, 12,355; died of other causes, 4,755; missing, 415; prisoners of war, 22.

Since the 31st of March I have ascertained that of those 22 prisoners of war all have been accounted for except 10. Those are the only cases we have been unable to trace of the very considerable number of Canadian prisoners of war in Germany.

I had an officer detailed for the purpose of taking down statements of Canadian prisoners of war on their arrival in England after being repatriated from Germany to find out whether the stories told about the cruelties practised by the Germans were correct. That officer and his assistants interviewed most of those repatriated prisoners, and in looking over a memorandum which came into my possession I took this extract of a statement by Captain Thomas:

The verbatim statements of these men show that hundreds of British prisoners—

He refers, it will be noticed, to British prisoners, not particularly to Canadian prisoners.

—were murdered deliberately and in cold blood in working behind the German lines in France—starved till they ate rats, cats, moles, putrid horse flesh, potato parings from garbage heaps—sent to hospital only when they were half dead. In one specific instance a Padre, a Canadian lad, whose statement I took, knows of 117 deaths out of 150 who were sent back to a parent camp by the Germans for their comrades to pull them through if they could.

We had in Germany something like 2,688 other ranks and 130 officers at the time of the armistice, and they have all been repatriated except the ten that we cannot find.

The Khaki University has done splendid service both in France and in England, and has helped many of our soldiers in their studies. I presume my hon. friends have heard all about that excellent work, so I will not attempt to take up the time of the House with a full description of the activities of that university.

Mr. LEMIEUX: How many boys have availed themselves of the courses?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: For the month of December, 1918, there were from the 1st Division, 2,000 men; from the 2nd Division, 2,018 men; from the 3rd Division, 2,197 men; from the 4th Division, 2,137 men—making a grand total of 8,352 men who availed themselves of the courses in France. I need not go into the different branches of study. In England the attendance for the same month was 11,755.

The total attendance at lectures from July to December, 1918, was 231,000.

Mr. MURPHY: Are those in charge civilians or soldiers?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: They are largely university professors of Canada who volunteered their services, and to enable them to go into the army we made them honorary officers for the time being.

Mr. MURPHY: Drawing the pay of their rank?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I do not think so. Most of the money for this work was raised by voluntary subscription in Canada. They have libraries and all sorts of educational equipment.

Mr. EULER: Were there any conditions placed upon the soldiers as to their entrance into this Khaki University?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Do you mean in regard to fees?

Mr. EULER: No, in regard to their educational qualifications.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I think they could take any courses they pleased. The rules were not very strict. I am under the impression that it would take that much time off their courses in similar studies when they returned to Canada.

Mr. EULER: Was it necessary that they should have been university students?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I do not think so. Although called university courses, I fancy some of the subjects were really elementary.

I scarcely feel like closing my observations without referring to the splendid work done by the Canadian Red Cross Society, the Canadian Military Y.M.C.A., and the non-military organizations which provided hospitality overseas. Those organizations were: The Canadian War Contingents Association, the Canadian Field Comforts Association, the Maple Leaf Clubs—these clubs in London furnished beds for our soldiers, who otherwise would have had to sleep on the streets, the accommodation being so scarce—the I.O.D.E. Clubs, the Canadian Officers' Club, the Royal Automobile Club, and the St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blind Soldiers. This last named organization owes its origin to Sir Arthur Pearson, who is himself blind. He has had about eighty Canadian blinded soldiers under his care. I visited the place some weeks ago, and although I often wonder what passes in the minds of the blind, to all appearances those men

were quite happy. They were learning various trades. Sir Arthur Pearson himself is a wonderful man and has done splendid work for Canada in connection with St. Dunstan's Hostel.

In connection with demobilization, we have had some difficulties. While the men have been anxious to get back to Canada at the earliest possible moment, yet it has required numerous organizations to prepare and get them back. The staff requirements in all the camps, the cooks and clerks, absorb the activities of an army of men, and we have had very great difficulty naturally in persuading those men to sacrifice themselves for the benefit of others. We have had to appeal to them on patriotic grounds to do this work for their comrades, although they had just as great a right to get back as any one else. To the permanent cadres the thanks of this country are due for the splendid services they have performed in connection with the return of our soldiers to Canada.

When the armistice came we had 268,000 Canadians on our hands overseas. We realized at once that we had a difficult problem to deal with. Every one felt that the war was over, even though peace had not been signed. These men enlisted in Canada, and they had an objective—that of getting at the Hun and fighting him. They were full of enthusiasm, and they were easy to handle. Indeed, they have always been easy to handle, and they are easy to handle even to-day. But when the armistice came their objective was changed; their one desire was to get home as quickly as they could. Men who had been under restraint for long periods ranging up to four years, or even longer, and who had been subjected to conditions of privation, suffering and sacrifice, were tired and homesick, and we found it more difficult to handle these men after the signing of the armistice than up to that time. They were not inclined to inquire very carefully whether or not ships were available, or how many ships had been sunk by submarines, and so on; they wanted to get home, not next year, but next week. We had to get the machine reversed, so to speak. We had the machine working fairly smoothly, carrying troops to the German lines; now we had to see how best we could get them back to Canada. Had there been only 5,000 men to bring back, the problem would not have been difficult. But before I went on board ship on the other side I witnessed the magnificent spectacle of the march past in London of 12,000 Dominion troops, eight deep. It took this body of men an

hour and-a-half to pass His Majesty the King; you can imagine what an army of 268,000 is. Well, we tried to do the best we could. Demobilization came upon us in the fall of the year, just before winter. I have heard that you had the mildest winter that Canada ever had, but the people of England, France and Belgium say that last winter was the most disagreeable they have ever known—much cold and wet, and a lack of sunshine. There would be periods of a month when you would not see the sun at all in England. We had these men to house and to take care of under these conditions. Moreover, a fuel famine came upon the country after the winter had set in, and we had to supply the men with extra blankets. However, I am glad to say that the repatriation of our men has proceeded very well.

Some months before the armistice was signed I organized a demobilization committee to consider how to work out this problem when peace came, and the work of that committee was of great service when the armistice actually did come. The Prime Minister said this afternoon that some people thought it would take two years to get the soldiers back, having regard to the number of ships that were sunk by submarines and to the great demand for tonnage. I have heard people say that it would take three years to get our soldiers back, in view of all the circumstances. I am happy to be able to say that if peace is not signed pretty soon, all our soldiers will be back in Canada before peace is signed. There will be in England after the end of this month about 80,000 Canadians. Nearly all our troops are out of France. The troops that went to the Rhine returned to Belgium some time before they went back to England. My latest report, which is dated May 19, says that at that time there were 4,516 Canadian troops in France.

Mr. PEDLOW: Does that include Canadians in the Imperial Service in France?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Only those in our own forces. The 4,516 were made up as follows: Three hospitals, 1,000; details at Etaples and Rouen, 600; Infantry Works Companies, 1,300; burial party, 1,000; patients in hospital, 616. I should think that by this time most of them are in England.

We have moved from France to England since the armistice 140,000 troops. By the end of May we shall have embarked for Canada 185,216 troops. We expect that the 80,000 Canadians who will be in England at

the end of May will almost all be returned to Canada by the end of July, though there will be a small remnant still to return after that date.

The matter of steamship accommodation has presented a very difficult problem. I speak with feeling on the subject, because I have had some very warm interviews with the Imperial authorities regarding it. The principle that had to be settled in respect to the transportation from England of Canadian troops was whether the Canadians should have priority over American troops, and if so, to what extent. The relations between Great Britain and the United States are very intimate, and it is desirable that they should be; but I found it necessary to establish the principle that Canadian troops should have priority over American troops, and I succeeded in having it established. We have in the service of Canada all the great Canadian liners as well as those plying on the North Atlantic whose home port on this side of the water is in the United States. Unless something goes wrong, we shall have brought back to Canada during the month of May 52,000 Canadian troops.

The Americans will, no doubt, bring back a good many during this month, but they will not be able to bring back, I am informed, more than 5,000 on British ships. I thought, perhaps, I could finish my remarks before six o'clock, but as I have still a few things to say which I think may interest the House, if the members will bear with me for a few minutes after eight o'clock, I will then conclude my observations.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

After Recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Sir EDWARD KEMP (Minister of Overseas Military Forces) (Resuming): When the House rose at six o'clock I was dealing with the question of demobilization so far as it affects the Canadian troops in England. I pointed out that although the weather conditions were unpleasant, the monotony of the troops was broken by diversions in the way of sports and education, and in other ways everything was done to help them pass the time as pleasantly and profitably as possible. The conduct of the Canadian soldiers during this very, very trying period has been excellent—better, I venture to say, than the conduct of any other of

the British forces. If there have been slight lapses, as one might expect in such a large force, those lapses have been better advertised than similar occurrences on the part of any other of the British soldiers either in Great Britain or in France. To those of us who are conversant with the situation that has existed in France and England since the signing of the armistice, it has been amusing to read in the press of Great Britain and Canada some of the things which the Canadian soldier has been accused of. I repeat, I believe that the conduct of no other troops of the whole British Empire has been equal to that of the Canadian soldiers. I have no reason whatever to criticise the conduct of the vast majority of them. These men had been away from home for many years and were anxious to get back, and during the waiting time I think we might have expected some slight lapses, and possibly small disorders, occasionally to occur. These lapses, however, have not been any worse, in fact, nor so bad, as those that occurred in other forces. I am not in a position to state all that is in my mind on this matter, because certain information and certain news items with respect to the conduct of other British forces have been withheld from the public, while the occurrences amongst the Canadian soldiers have been very broadly and widely circulated.

Probably hon. members have already been told by the Minister of Militia and Defence of the mode of demobilization. We have two systems, running along side by side, which makes the problem much more difficult than where there is but one system. That, however, has been unavoidable. First of all, the soldiers in Great Britain and France, outside of the Canadian Corps and the Canadian Cavalry Brigade—that is to say, Forestry Corps, Railway Troops and Lines of Communication Units—are being demobilized according to length of service, those with the longest service being demobilized first. They are taken from various camps according to their length of service, and sent to a camp which is divided into wings or areas corresponding to the different military districts in Canada. The men are sorted according to the dispersal areas at which they will be demobilized in Canada, and all their documents and records are prepared before embarkation, so that on arrival at the dispersal station in Canada they are ready for instant demobilization. The result is that when a man reaches the dispersal station in Canada nearest to his home or where he wants to

go, he is at once discharged and returns to civil life.

The second system applies to troops included in the Canadian Corps and Canadian Cavalry Brigade whom it was found more advisable to deal with as units and who were accordingly demobilized and returned to Canada as far as possible in the units with which they fought at the front. Special sections of our camps in England were set apart for these Canadian Corps troops and the system of sorting out and documentation for them was, with certain modifications, the same as I have previously described.

I have referred at some length to the shipping situation. The disappointments and the difficulties of the shipping situation were very real and very trying. References have sometimes been made to the bunching of the ships in Halifax, and I have been asked why that has happened. The answer is very simple. We have to take the ships that are available and if, immediately after a ship has just sailed for Canada with four or five thousand troops on board, we are told that another ship is ready to sail which will cross the Atlantic at about the same speed, we cannot refuse that second ship or she would be used by the Americans. So for that reason the bunching of ships on this side of the Atlantic on occasions has been absolutely unavoidable. There is the further reason that the sailing of a ship is often delayed one or two days, and sometimes one or two weeks. I have known occasions where we were advised that a ship would sail on a certain day, all the papers and records would be prepared for a certain number of men for that ship, and when they were about to embark on the train the day before the ship left, we would get word that the ship could not sail and she might be delayed for a week. Furthermore, ships nowadays are pretty well worn out, and often at the last moment they have to go into dry dock. There have also been a great many strikes at the docks in England. I was told by the captain of the ship I came over on this time that there are about six different organizations, a strike in any one of which would prevent the sailing of a ship.

The House can have some idea of the difficulty with which we had to contend when I say that the nominal roll for a ship carrying from three to five thousand troops involves a tremendous amount of work. I hold in my hand the copy of a nominal roll of a certain sailing,—a small one,—the

number of troops being 460. One of my officers came into my office one day with a great pile of documents of this character, which contained the names of all the soldiers comprising that nominal roll. He said: "There are 460 names, and you can see what it would mean in the case of a ship carrying 5,000 troops, particularly when such a ship's sailing is cancelled; in such an event we have to take pen and ink or pencil and run a line through them and prepare the whole thing over again in order to make the roll for the sailing."

I have also referred briefly to the scarcity of ships, and in addition to what I said before recess, I would like to add this further fact: Canada is not the only country to which soldiers must be returned. There are Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and there is a movement of troops from Egypt to India, and troops returning from Mesopotamia and Palestine and the Mediterranean, while to the United States vast numbers are coming back. In view of this, I think I might reasonably direct the attention of the House again to what has been accomplished in the matter of repatriating the Canadian army, especially when one considers the scarcity of ships as a result of submarine warfare and the tremendous demand which exists for shipping at the present time. The programme outlined by the authorities in Canada in regard to the number of troops that could be repatriated contemplated 20,000 for December and January, 30,000 for February, March and April, 40,000 for the month of May, and 45,000 a month after May. I presume that it was considered that as December and January were winter months, and in view of the uncertainty as to the kind of winter we should have and the fear of a blockade of the railways by reason of snowstorms, it would not be safe to attempt to repatriate more than the number mentioned for these months. It was very easy to obtain ships at that time because other countries and the other dominions had not got as far advanced in the work of demobilization as we had. We carried out the programme for these two months, and in February 30,000 was the number fixed in the programme. We dispatched a considerable number of men in that month, but there was a falling off due chiefly to strikes and, to a limited extent, to the fact that we refused to take some ships to carry men considering they were not adequately equipped for the transportation of troops in winter on the North Atlantic owing to insufficiency of heating and lavatory accommodation and poor ventilation. We had to

discard these ships, but the difference was made up. To stop 3,000 men from embarking on a ship interrupts the system, because the men were all moving towards the shipping ports; and sometimes it was necessary to stop the movement of troops as far back as Belgium to meet the situation caused by sudden shortage of shipping. In March, however, we caught up more than we had lost in February. We discovered that the authorities in Canada could take more than 30,000 a month and we sent about 42,000 to Canada in March. In April, there were again bad strikes in England and we fell short. But in the month of May we have more than made up the shortage by sending some 52,000. On the whole, therefore, we have lived up to the programme, and have exceeded it on the average. It was thought that troops could be repatriated rapidly by way of the St. Lawrence route after the opening of navigation, but as a result of careful examination of the matter we found that there were not vessels capable of navigating the St. Lawrence that would carry more than ten to fifteen thousand troops into the St. Lawrence ports. After taking into consideration "military dependents"—the wives and children of soldiers—and a certain proportion of civilian passengers, we could not get into the St. Lawrence more than ten or fifteen thousand troops a month. Repatriation would therefore chiefly take place, even in summer, by way of Halifax, because that port can take in vessels capable of carrying large numbers. In addition to this, these vessels that come to Halifax go on to New York for cargoes and there take passengers back to England. I would call attention to a certain press notice which will throw some light on the careful manner in which we have endeavoured to guard the interests of our soldiers in connection with repatriation, and the fact that we have tried to give them satisfactory sleeping accommodation on board ship, proper meals, etc. The press despatch to which I refer reads:

One of ten troopships due yesterday with more than 26,000 returning American soldiers, the *Leviathan* had a total of 14,416 souls aboard when she made her pier at Hoboken. Of these 12,274 were troops.

The rest were officers and members of the crew.

In order to accommodate this unprecedented number of passengers, the troops aboard received only two meals a day, but there were no complaints.

Now, we have not deemed it wise to crowd men into ships to the same extent as some of the Allies have done in connection with

repatriation. We do not put the same number of troops on ships as others do. I presume the extract I have just read is a correct account of what took place with reference to the Vaterland, now called the Leviathan, one of the largest of the former German ships. It will be seen the men on board this ship had only two meals a day because there were no facilities for providing more; and I can say more than is contained in this article. Some of the soldiers of some of the Allies have slept in eight-hour shifts on board ship because of lack of sleeping accommodation. On the other hand, so far as the Canadian troops are concerned, we have tried to furnish comfortable accommodation for the men so that all of them could sleep at night and not in relays. There are always in some of these vessels a few hammock berths that are more or less uncomfortable, and we try to make conditions in respect to them as comfortable as possible. With regard to the question of meals, this is a matter which has been carefully thought out. Under our regulations, instead of two meals a day as the men received to whom this article refers, our soldiers were given what I might term four meals a day. They received three regular meals and at bedtime were given a substantial bit of food to sustain them through the night. I have already quoted some figures, but I think I may repeat them again. We had, when the armistice was signed, about 140,000 troops in France, practically all of whom have since been moved to Great Britain. Out of 268,000 Canadian troops that were overseas at the signing of the armistice, we will have moved across the Atlantic by the end of the present month no less than 185,216. That will leave in round numbers 80,000 still to be brought home, nearly all of whom, unless something unforeseen happens, will be returned to Canada during the months of June and July. There will be a few odds and ends to clear up after that, but I cannot give the exact figures as to these because there is always a certain number of discharges in England under our policy.

I did not refer, when making my statement this afternoon, to a question as to which I think nearly every member of the House has had some personal experience, I refer to that of compassionate leave. One of the most difficult and trying matters that I, and the members of the staff in Great Britain, as well as the Corps Commander and other officers, have had to deal with has been the question of compassionate

leave. As I stated this afternoon, no one thought this war was going to last for such a long time, nor did the parents of our young men anticipate that their sons would be absent for such a lengthy period. All sorts of things can happen in a family in the course of three or four years. The heart rending and heart breaking appeals we had from parents and relatives were many, and it was very necessary that we should decide on some policy and endeavour to carry it out as justly as we could. It was also necessary to try and answer every communication we received in a sympathetic manner and explain, as well as we could the working of the system which was decided on. I have had parents come from distant parts of Canada to my office in England who pointed out and urged reasons why their sons should be repatriated without regard to anybody else. Such a situation is very trying, because the parental affection enters into the case and there are always very affecting circumstances connected with it. I have tried to administer the policy decided upon in that regard in as fair and just a manner to all concerned as was possible under all the difficult circumstances that arose.

I would like to refer for a moment to another important thing which has caused us a good deal of work in England, but which has apparently been necessary, and that is the documentation of the soldiers. When demobilization took place on a large scale it required at the place of demobilization a full and complete record of the soldier as he is returned to civil life, this being needed for the purpose of pensions, for war service gratuity, and for many other purposes. When a soldier went from Canada overseas this documentation, or a very large proportion of it, was not necessary at all; but before he could return to Canada—unless he was to be demobilized in England—as we did demobilize soldiers in England in certain cases—the work to be performed overseas was very considerable, I can assure the House. The only documents the soldier had to take with him when he was leaving Canada were:

1. Attestation Paper or Particulars of Recruit. (Made out on enlistment).
2. Casualty Form. (Giving full particulars of Service in Field).
3. Medical History Sheet. (Kept up to date from enlistment).
4. Field Conduct Sheet. (Giving particulars of any "crimes" or punishments).
5. Pay Book. (Always carried by soldier).

We were not only required to re-sort the men before we could send them back to Canada into units according to the dispersal

stations in Canada to which the soldier wished to go, but we had to carry out this documentation to which I have referred. The procedure was laid down in Canada in respect to this additional documentation, and no doubt it was necessary. I am under the impression that if the armistice had not come upon us suddenly as it did, and if demobilization had not been upon us, we could have simplified the matter of documentation; but we were in the midst of demobilization and there was not time to argue the matter out between the Minister of Militia and myself and the officers under us in both cases. So we had to proceed with this rather heavy duty. The procedure which was laid down by Canada involved preparation Overseas of the following ten documents, in addition to those already in existence:

1. Proceedings of Final Medical Board (showing medical condition of man immediately prior to demobilization).
2. Dental Certificate (showing dental condition).
3. Proceedings on Discharge (A cover for all documents bearing endorsement of reasons for discharge and acknowledgment by soldier of receipt of discharge certificate).
4. Discharge Certificate (enclosed in special envelope—to be signed in Canada and handed to soldier).
5. Copy of Discharge Certificate (retained for record purposes).
6. Dispersal Certificate (in triplicate—particulars of address of soldier after demobilization, where he wants War Gratuity sent, etc.).
7. Equipment and Clothing Statement (Receipt by soldier for all items of clothing and equipment taken to Canada).
8. Last Pay Certificate (showing state of soldier's pay account up to end of current month).
9. Duplicate Last Pay Certificate.
10. War Service Gratuity Form (declaration by soldier of essential facts required for purposes of this grant).

These are all in addition to the documents and papers that the man had to have when he came from Canada overseas. Two of these documents to which I have referred had to be prepared in duplicate and two in triplicate. There may also have accumulated overseas sundry documents which may be as many as 20, to cover such items as:

- Regimental and Company Conduct Sheets.
- Particulars of family.
- Particulars of marriage.
- Proficiency Certificates.
- Statement of Service of Warrant Officers and N.C.O's.
- Birth Certificate.
- Proceedings of Courts of Inquiry.

Canada, I venture to think, possesses probably the most complete system of documentation of all the Allies; and whilst, as

I say, we might have simplified the system if we had had the time, yet there was not an opportunity to do it. In order to give the House some idea of how long it takes to get through with this documentation I had a calculation made and I discovered that if the work for the whole force were to be done by one man who devoted eight hours a day to it, it would take him sixty-eight years to carry it out. This would not include the time required to complete preparation of last pay certificates and to adjust pay accounts, which would double the period. Nor does it include time occupied in getting men on parade, or time spent on parade, for registering name and full regimental particulars. This also would double the time.

Taking into account the 268,000 Canadian soldiers overseas at the armistice there would have to be answered in the duplicate and triplicate forms 100,710,357 questions, and the number of signatures which would be required would be 2,219,512. So that there was the necessity of keeping a regular staff of officers and clerks in England to do this work,—men who were entitled to return to Canada just as much as the soldiers they are working for, and when this is considered hon. gentlemen will understand this was quite a task. In that connection I want to pay a tribute to these men who have stayed in England, and who have carried on this work for the purpose of getting their comrades back to Canada—those who have had no extra pay but who have had to be appealed to on patriotic grounds to continue at work, the army of clerks, cooks, and men of that character who are doing duty in England, and are doing it faithfully, those who have had to keep all the camps going, and perform all the labour in connection therewith,—all have done their work well and have done it very faithfully too.

Now I would like to speak for a few moments in reference to the Headquarters Staff in London. The appointment of an overseas minister was a unique procedure, and I do not venture to express any opinion at the moment as to its advisability. It was the programme that was undertaken by the Prime Minister, and it was thought, no doubt, by him that the responsibility in connection with this tremendous work should be thrown upon the shoulders of some one person who would look after it and see that it went all right. Well, it was a pretty stiff task for the fellow who undertook the work. The powers of

the Government, for the purposes of the administration of the Overseas Military Force, were vested in him. He had to stand all the hard knocks and overcome all the difficulties, to consider the aspirations of the officers, and to try if possible to satisfy the ambitions of some.

In many cases I admit that he failed in this regard. Sometimes one would almost feel after the day's work was over, on account of the miscellaneous character of the many things that came up for decision, that after the war was over he would have no friends at all left in Canada. The final court of appeal for the Government in respect to the overseas service was the minister. The task which I had to undertake would at any rate have been impossible so far as I am concerned had I not been fortunate in having men of ability associated with me, Canadians who were broad-minded and painstaking. I refer to the headquarters staff, who on behalf of Canada carried on this work in the city of London. All these men had seen active service in France and Belgium with the exception of a very few, and they were highly trained or technical men whose services could not be spared for service at the front. The members of the headquarters staff in London, both junior and senior, under our policy were, with these few exceptions, required to have served at least six months at the front; and, as I stated this afternoon, I was always being appealed to by headquarters officers to allow them to return to the front. The lot of the headquarters staff in London was unsatisfactory to them. The hours were long, frequently for seven days a week, and the work was performed under the most difficult and trying circumstances. I was assisted by those gentlemen to such a degree that I feel that the manner in which this work was executed will appeal to the people of Canada as being both effective and efficient.

I am going to take the liberty, Mr. Speaker, of running over the names of some of the principal officers who have been on the headquarters staff in London, to whom I am indebted for assistance in carrying on this work.

The first Deputy Minister of Overseas Military Forces of Canada to be appointed was Colonel Walter Gow, of Toronto, who is well known, not only in legal, but in business circles in Canada and in many other parts of the world. Canada may consider herself extremely fortunate in having had the services placed at her disposal of a man of Colonel Gow's attainments.

Through overwork on different occasions, he became incapacitated for duty, and in these periods Colonel G. S. Harrington was acting deputy minister. Colonel Harrington is a barrister of Nova Scotia and the son of a barrister. He familiarized himself with the work in all its details to such an extent that when Colonel Gow retired he was well qualified to take up the work of deputy minister, and I appointed him to that position.

Lieut.-Colonel T. Gibson, D.S.O., who was formerly a partner of my hon. colleague, the President of the Privy Council, and later was connected with the Soo industries, had also a very wide experience in business affairs and possessed good legal attainments as well. He was about to return to Canada, having finished his duties in France, but when he was passing through London I asked him to stay and assist in carrying on the work at our headquarters. He consented, and I appointed him to the position of assistant deputy minister. His services have also been of very great value.

Major L. P. Sherwood is the secretary of our Overseas Military Council. He is the son of Sir Percy Sherwood, of this city, and, of course, well known here.

Colonel W. R. Ward, the accountant general, is a member of the permanent forces of Canada, and has always been considered a very efficient officer.

Lieut.-General Sir Richard Turner, V.C., D.S.O., is a man of the very highest character and integrity. He won the Victoria Cross and the Distinguished Service Order as a young man in South Africa, and those who served with him there are never tired of telling of his bravery. He also showed great gallantry at the front in this war, where he commanded the 2nd Canadian Division, and when the overseas ministry was formed he was brought to London, and is now Chief of the General Staff there. He is beloved by the soldiers, and has always been recognized at the front as a very gallant officer.

Major W. Nickle, M.C., is General Turner's aide de camp. Major Nickle won the Military Cross at the front. He is the son of the hon. member for Kingston.

Lt.-Colonel C. M. Edwards, D.S.O., is a native of Ottawa and is well and favourably known in this city. He is on the General Staff.

Lt.-Colonel H. G. Mayes, M.B.E., was our Director of Physical Training, and his qualifications were considered of such a high order that the British Government asked us

to loan him to them; and we acceded to the request.

Brigadier-General D. M. Hogarth, C.M.G., D.S.O., is the Quartermaster-General. If members of the House will take the trouble to examine the report of the Quartermaster-General's Branch they will see what splendid results have been attained through his efforts and those of his officers through the transactions we have had with the Belgian Government and with the Imperial Government in regard to the disposal of horses and stores, and very large sums of money have been saved for Canada because of his keen business insight.

Colonel K. C. Folger, D.S.O., is the Deputy Quartermaster-General. Any one who knows this part of the country would say he came from Kingston—and he does. He was a member of the Permanent Staff before he went overseas, and is a very efficient officer.

Lt.-Colonel E. C. Duffin, O.B.E., is also in the Quartermaster-General's Branch. He has splendid business qualifications and has accomplished excellent results in connection with the shipment of troops to Canada.

Lt.-Colonel S. M. Bosworth assisted the Quartermaster-General in connection with the embarkation of troops and the allotment of shipping space. He is in charge of ocean and rail transport under the Quartermaster-General. He is a son of the president of the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services.

Colonel T. A. Simson, C.M.G., D.S.O., is a member of the Permanent Force, and after distinguished service at the front was brought back to take the position of Director of Supplies and Transport.

Lt.-Colonel C. M. Ruttan, D.S.O., belongs to Winnipeg, as his name would indicate, and is a most capable officer in the Supply Branch.

Major-General P. E. Thacker, C.M.G., D.S.O., is the Adjutant-General, and any comments I might make as to his qualifications can be easily understood when one realizes the smoothness with which demobilization has proceeded. It was his duty with the help of the officers under him to work out the scheme of demobilization overseas.

Colonel F. S. Morrison, D.S.O., also of the Permanent Force, is Deputy Adjutant General, and two assistants are Lt.-Colonel E. W. Pope, son of Sir Joseph Pope, of Ottawa, and Lt.-Colonel G. H. Cassels, son of Mr. Justice Cassels, of the Exchequer Court.

Colonel A. L. Hamilton, C.M.G., Director of Records Overseas, is responsible for the system of documentation and records. Having been manager of one of our banks in Canada, he conceived the idea of a clearing house for documents in each of different areas. Through the working out of that system we have brought order out of what at one time might have resulted in chaos had the procedure on demobilization not been systematized and put in better shape.

Major Hume Blake, grandson of the late Hon. Edward Blake, is a Deputy Assistant Adjutant General.

Major-General G. L. Foster, C.B., is the Director-General of Medical Services. He won distinction at the front where he was in charge of the medical service of the Canadian Corps and was brought back for this position at Headquarters. The Deputy Director-General of Medical Services is Brigadier-General H. S. Birkett, C.M.G., Dean of the Medical Faculty of McGill University, Montreal; who is well-known throughout Canada.

The Paymaster-General is Brigadier-General J. G. Ross, C.M.G., a member of a firm of well-known chartered accountants in Montreal.

The General Auditor is Honorary Colonel L. A. Dowie. He is a very excellent chartered accountant who has given his services to the country during the period of the war.

The Judge Advocate General is Colonel R. M. Dennistoun, C.B.E., now judge of the Court of Appeal of Manitoba. He is in London straightening out many matters in connection with the final demobilization of the troops to Canada.

Major-General A. McDougall, C.B., Brigadier-General B. R. Hepburn, C.M.G., and Colonel G. V. White, C.B.E., have been responsible for carrying out the timber operations, to which I referred this afternoon, in France and in England.

Lt.-Colonel G. S. Robertson, a barrister of Nova Scotia, is in charge of the Estates Branch, and has had to do with something like 300,000 wills of soldiers.

I have run over these names hurriedly because I wanted the House to know the personnel of the Headquarters Staff in London. I want to make this observation: if I wanted men in any business with which I was connected, I should consider myself very fortunate indeed if I could select, on the average, men as intelligent, as efficient, and of as high a class as these. These men are chiefly civilian soldiers; their practices in law and in medicine and their businesses for the most part—I speak whereof I know—have entirely gone from

them. Some of them are in middle-life and will find it very difficult to take up the threads again when they return. They have asked me repeatedly since the armistice was signed to be allowed to go home. My answer invariably has been: "Do you propose to leave me alone here on this demobilization problem? You are not working for an individual, for a corporation, even for a Government." I appealed to them on the ground that they were working for a country which they loved; for the best country in the world; and the answer has always been: We will stick to this job, no matter what the consequences may be, until the last soldier is back in Canada. The sacrifices made by these men in carrying out this work for their country will, I am sure, be recognized by the people of Canada; they will be thanked for it in some manner at the proper time in the future.

I have simply referred hurriedly to the Headquarters Staff in London. I do not by any means ignore or overlook the splendid officers who have served in France and in the various areas in England. The services rendered by these magnificent men who have served Canada so nobly both in the Canadian Corps and in connection with the other formations outside the Corps have been invaluable. They will not have to stay overseas as long as the Headquarters Staff will, but I repeat that they have rendered splendid service. However, their numbers are so great that I cannot very well take up the time of the House on this occasion in referring to all of them.

We endeavoured, as far as we could, for the sake of economy, to keep the staff down as low as was consistent with efficiency. In the Chief of the General Staff's Branch, the Adjutant-General's Branch, and the Quartermaster-General's Branch, and the Assistant Military Secretary's Branch, the number of officers and other ranks decreased as we systematized the work and improved it, as we always try to do, in the light of past experience. On December 1, 1916, the number of officers in these branches was 134, and of other ranks, 566. On November 11, 1918, the staff had been reduced to 61 officers and 319 other ranks, although the work was somewhat heavier.

I do not think I need say anything more on that point. The matter is one which is very close to my heart. I want to say to this House and to the people of Canada that the men who have served overseas both in France and at Headquarters in England are as faithful and as honest a lot

of men as could be found, and I believe they have served their country from the very highest motives of patriotism.

I am one of those, Mr. Speaker, who believe that Canada still has a big war problem on her hands, and that in the solution of that problem patience and confidence will be required. On the one side there are the men who have returned and who naturally find it difficult to accustom themselves to peace conditions, to get back into the ordinary occupations of civil life, after having been employed for long periods in something so entirely different. Then, there is the natural anxiety on the part of the men about a livelihood for themselves and their families and the difficulties which they will have to overcome in this regard. As I have said, I have not a word of criticism to make regarding these men. I have been amongst them in their camps; I have been with them on ships on several occasions, and I believe that notwithstanding the hardships they have endured and the things they have gone through while killing the Huns, they are just the same Canadians as they were, and their hearts are in the right place. The whole situation requires to be handled with patience and forbearance. It is our duty, the duty of all the men and women of Canada, to assist in solving the problem which is on our hands with respect to re-establishing our soldiers and finding, as far as we can, suitable employment for every one of them.

On the other side there is the problem of absorption. These men cannot be treated in the same way that men were treated in peace time, when conditions were normal and there was work for all. They took up the great cause for Canada and for those who were unable to go. The Government is doing everything that is possible to help employment, but the Government cannot do everything. It requires the co-operation of every citizen, who must realize that a distinct obligation rests upon his or her shoulders, and employers particularly must deal with the situation in a most sympathetic and practical way. This requires patience, and we must keep the word "patience" constantly in mind; patience is the watchword now for all. In making these observations I have in mind the returned soldier problem, and not another situation which has developed and which is outside of the soldier problem altogether.

Canada has surpassed herself in what she has been able to accomplish thus far, so let us not fail at the end in solving still

more difficult problems. If the best results are to be secured and if we are not to be handicapped in our effort at this time, there must be confidence between all classes, confidence also in a commercial sense to enable us to keep the wheels of commerce and industry moving in order that there may be, under such conditions, a maximum of opportunity for employment. A lack of confidence would at this time be irreparable. We want employment for the soldier, indeed for everybody, and one of the worst things that could happen to this country would be the development of a lack of that mutual confidence upon which commerce and industry depend.

We must realize that the war has made a new world. It certainly has made a new Canada, a very different Canada from what it was before the war. It is necessary not only for the soldier to fit himself into new conditions, but for the whole Canadian people to fit themselves into new conditions and to understand what the new conditions mean. Of all the soldiers who crossed the seas from different parts of the world to take part in this war, none of them has a better country in every sense of the word

to return to than Canada's soldiers. This is not a mere commonplace statement, for our soldiers have learned what the habits of the people are in other places than Canada, and the more we have seen of conditions as they exist in other places, the more impressed from every point of view have we become of the magnificence of the country which is our heritage. I will not detain the House any longer at this time. I feel very gratified at the attentive and courteous manner with which hon. members on both sides of the House have listened to my somewhat lengthy remarks.

In closing, let me say that I understood to a great extent the responsibilities which I was assuming when after some misgivings I accepted the task of administering the overseas forces of Canada. The task was a difficult one; it taxed all my energies, but I would venture to say this, that I was always desirous of, and always aimed at, administering the overseas forces in such a manner as would meet with the approval of the Canadian people, once they were in a position to understand all the circumstances.

